



Lake County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Daniel A. Dunlap

104 East Erie St., Painesville, Ohio 44077 (440) 350-5504

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

2015 Patrol Division Annual Report

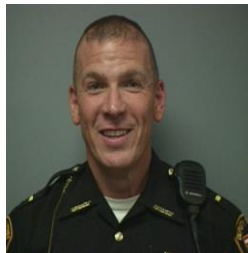
Operations Captain Carl Dondorfer



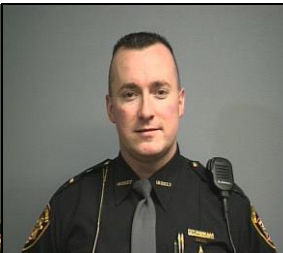
The Lake County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division provides law enforcement services to the unincorporated areas of Lake County. These areas are Concord Township, Leroy Township, Painesville Township and Perry Township. Patrol Commander, Operations Capt. Carl Dondorfer supervises this division comprised of 25 Deputy Sheriffs who provide proactive police services and response within approximately 88 square miles with an average population of approximately 55,000 residents.

The dedicated men and women within this division work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year responding to the needs of people in the community by investigating crime, responding to emergencies, patrolling, investigating accidents, providing search and rescue and maintaining the public peace, while serving the community needs in a caring, courteous and professional manner to ensure the highest quality of life for all people.

Patrol Supervision



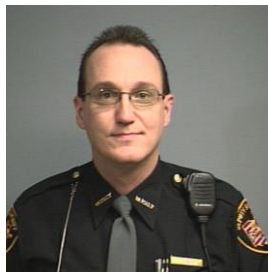
Lt. Todd MenMuir
Shift Commander



Lt. Jeff Sherwood
Shift Commander



Lt. Mike Reed
Shift Commander



Sgt. Donald Durst
Shift Supervisor



Sgt. Larry Harpster
Shift Supervisor



Sgt. Pat Paterson
Shift Supervisor

2015 Road Patrol Annual Report Summary

The Road Patrol Division maintained public safety for well over 55,000 residents in Painesville Township, Perry Township, Concord Township, and Leroy Township. The Lake County Sheriff Office is the primary law enforcement agency for these Townships and prides itself on professional public service. The Road Patrol Division is committed to quality customer service for the township residents which it serves.

The Road Patrol Division handled 47,176 events in 2015. Of these 47,176 events, 16,988 were in Concord Twp., 23,942 were in Painesville Twp., 4,561 were in Perry Twp. and 1,685 were in Leroy Twp. These events, in part, consisted of Part I, Part II Crimes, and Part III Incidents / Miscellaneous complaints within the Townships of Lake County. These types of events include:

PART I	PART II	PART III
Criminal	Forgery	Motor vehicle Accidents
Homicide	Fraud	Other Accidents
Forcible Rape	Embezzlement	Railroad Accidents
Robbery	Stolen Property	Public Accidents
Assault	Vandalism	Home Accidents
Burglary	Weapons	Occupational Accidents
Larceny	Prostitution	Firearm Accidents
Motor Vehicle	Sex Offenses	Animal Bites
Theft	Drug Abuse	Suicide
Arson	Liquor Laws	Attempted Suicide
	Driving Under the Influence	Sudden Death
	Disorderly Conduct	Personnel
	Vagrancy	Reports
	All Other Offenses	Lost
		Found

In 2015, the Road Patrol Division investigated the following in each of the (4) Townships.

	PART I	PART II	PART III
PAINESVILLE	464	1052	22,426
CONCORD	254	619	16,115
PERRY	120	261	4,180
LEROY	57	104	1,524
TOTAL	895	2,036	44,245

All of these recorded events assist in identifying problematic areas within each Township, and determining crime specific data for analysis in an effort to implement plans to mitigate certain types of criminal activity. In using the locations and number of recorded events, zones and staffing levels were adjusted to provide effective law enforcement services to the Townships.



In 2015, the Road Patrol maintained traffic enforcement for hundreds of miles of roadway inside 88 square miles of patrol zones within four (4) Townships. In 2015 there were 499 damage accidents investigated by the Patrol Division, compared to 589 in 2014. In 2015 there were 143 motor vehicle accidents which involved injuries as compared to 151 in 2014. The Patrol Division handled 2 fatal motor vehicle crashes in 2015 compared to 3 in 2014. The Patrol Division has maintained certified Motor Vehicle Accident Reconstructionist Investigators whose expertise is essential in serious crash investigation incidents.

The Road Patrol Division has a complete summary of traffic related events for 2015. This summary was completed so that deputies could be proactive in areas where a higher number of accidents occur during the day and time those incidents took place. In this summary, the top five (5) motor vehicle accident (MVA) areas were identified. Listed below are the top five (5) most dangerous intersections within the Lake County Sheriff's Office patrol area for motor vehicle accidents.

INTERSECTIONS

- (1) Interstate 90 / State Rt. 44 Concord Twp..... 70 Crashes
- (2) State Rt. 44 / State Rt. 2 Painesville Twp.... 34 Crashes
- (3) State Rt. 84 / State Rt. 44 Concord Twp... 33 Crashes
- (4) State Rt. 44 / Auburn Rd. Concord Twp..... 30 Crashes
- (5) Interstate 90 / Vrooman Rd. Leroy Twp..... 29 Crashes



As a result of this study, patrol deputies will conduct proactive traffic enforcement initiatives in these areas in an effort to reduce the number of accidents at these intersections / locations. In 2015, the LCSO again applied for and was awarded a grant administered through the Ohio Dept. of Public Safety. The grant, High Visibility Enforcement Overtime (HVEO) provides funding for overtime enforcement for the specific violations of OVI, Speed, Seat Belts and Distracted Driving. The enforcement efforts are targeted to reduce the amount of serious motor vehicle accidents involving injury and or death within specific areas in the townships of Lake County as a result of these violations. This grant funding will involve specific blitz details targeted around holidays and special events throughout the year, 2016.

The Road Patrol also completed a summary of the total number of Operating a Vehicle while Intoxicated (OVI) arrests within the Townships. This summary includes day, time, and locations of the arrests. This information will be used to adjust manpower within patrol zones to target OVI / traffic offenders. This year there were 65 operating a vehicle while intoxicated arrests. Additionally in 2015, there were a total of 27 motor vehicle accidents investigated by the Patrol Division which involved a driver operating a vehicle while intoxicated. In comparison, there were a total of 55 OVI arrests in

2014 and 24 involved motor vehicle crashes. OVI arrests were more prevalent on the weekends in 2015 as in 2014.



The Lake County Sheriff's Office also maintains one of the best equipped Swat Teams in the State of Ohio. The SWAT Team is a Tri-County SWAT Team which provides critical incident response not only to Lake County but also the adjacent counties of Geauga and Ashtabula. The SWAT Team is the primary first responder to any critical incident or major event at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. The SWAT team also assists local law enforcement agencies with the service of high risk arrest and search warrants. These missions were critical to eliminating crack houses and clandestine methamphetamine labs in our patrol areas and other areas within the Tri-County area. Captain Carl Dondorfer commands the team, comprised of Lake County Deputies, Painesville City Police Officers, and Geauga and Ashtabula County Deputies for a total of 32 tactical team members. The SWAT Team was activated three (3) times in 2015 compared to two (2) activations in 2014; one of the activations was a possible barricaded gunman / suspect incident and the other two activations were assists with search warrant service for other law enforcement agencies.



As of 2011, a National Average of 1.5 full-time law enforcement officers, for every 1,000 inhabitants, was employed by law enforcement agencies within the Midwest, with a population of 50,000 to 99,999. This statistic was obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports. Deputy cost analysis using top rate salary to include benefits is \$94,163.28, which was obtained through the Human Resources Dept. The current manpower status for the Lake County Sheriff's Office is 25 full time Road Patrol Deputies to include supervisors and school resource officers. The national average for this population would be 84 officers

In 2015, the Road Patrol Division continued to receive funding support from Painesville, and Concord Townships. This assistance in funding provided for routine patrols, community outreach programs and proactive policing initiatives in these townships. The funding for patrol was needed as

there had been a reduction in manpower within the Patrol Division due to the decline in the economy and the financial hardship that Lake County sustained over the past several years. The assistance from these Townships has provided for increased law enforcement presence, proactive policing initiatives, patrol cruisers and essential equipment needed to provide quality law enforcement services to the residents of these communities.

In 2014, Painesville Twp. passed a replacement levy for law enforcement services which provided for additional patrol deputies to be placed within Painesville Twp. In 2015, these new patrol deputies were hired, trained and assigned to patrol Painesville Twp. and provide professional law enforcement services to the residents of Painesville Twp.

The Trustees of Concord Township and Painesville Township recognized the need for increased patrols inside Township neighborhoods. The cost of creating a Police Department for a Township is estimated at 2.5 to 3.5 million dollars per year. The Trustee's decided that passing a levy and entering into a contract with a well-established Police Agency would be more cost effective for their residents. This would allow for significant savings to taxpayers as Townships continue to grow and the needs for additional Police Protection increases.

In the fall of 2015, the residents of Concord Twp. approved a joint Police / Fire Safety levy which will allow for additional full time patrol deputies to be hired in the spring of 2016 for Concord Twp. Once hired and trained, these deputies will be assigned to provide additional patrol services to the residents of Concord Twp.

The County has continued to fund deputies within the Patrol Division for response to emergency calls for service within the Townships. These county funded deputies provide effective law enforcement services and respond to priority emergency calls for assistance in all the Townships within Lake County. In an effort to maintain a productive level of law enforcement services for the Townships, additional measures had to be implemented within the Road Patrol Division due to the reduction in manpower and our need to service the residents who reside in all of the townships.

In February of 2012, a self-reporting format was implemented at the Sheriff's Office called the GIR (General Incident Report). This self-reporting process has continued through 2015 and has been a beneficial reporting option when a deputy is unavailable to personally handle a report as he or she may be committed to a call for service and or investigation. In instances where a non-emergency call for service was received and deputies were unavailable to respond due to deputies currently on assignment, residents within the townships were given the option of responding to the Sheriff's Office to self-report incidents, completing the GIR at the department. This reporting format helped to facilitate timely follow up investigations after reports were reviewed by supervisors and directed to the Detective Bureau in cases where the complaint was a crime and required additional investigation. Supervisors were able to screen GIR complaints upon completion without allocating deputies who were unavailable which in the past would result in calls for service holding. Supervisors have also been able to follow up on minor GIR complaints in a timely fashion and assign labor extensive cases to the detectives. In 2015, there were a total of 261 GIR reports filed by township residents.

Special Mention needs to be placed with the dedicated members of the Lake County Sheriff's Office Road Patrol, and Special Deputies, the men and women who provide fair and equal access of their public service year round. They serve and respond to the public needs in a caring, courteous, and professional manner to ensure the highest quality of life for all people. These men and women investigate crimes that can create stresses beyond an average citizen's belief. They continue to maintain very professional standing with Lake County residents, and have maintained excellent

working relationships with State, Federal, and local law enforcement agencies. This positive and professional conduct is embedded in the culture of the Lake County Sheriff's Office and required of all members of the Road Patrol Division. The Sheriff's Office maintains a standard of professional public service.



The Sheriff along with Administrators at the Riverside School District and Auburn Career Center agreed to share in the cost of School Resource Officers (SRO). The schools pay a portion of salaries toward three (3) Deputies, two (2) assigned to Auburn Career Center and the other one (1) assigned to Riverside High School. These Deputies provide security with an emphasis on school safety within these schools. Deputy Corey Svagerko (Riverside High School), and Deputies Edward Pecka and Dale Pohto (Auburn Career Center) do a great job of making our learning environments safe and building a positive rapport with the students and school staff. Auburn Career Center added a second SRO this year to increase security during the evening classes at the Career Center.

Sgt. Larry Harpster is the Sheriff's Office School Safety Program Supervisor. Sgt. Harpster is also a member of the Lake County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team. Sgt. Harpster is in charge of House Bill 422 compliance. The purpose of this bill is to provide a level of preparedness against domestic and international terrorist acts where schools are the target. Sgt. Harpster works in tandem with local fire departments and school liaisons to ensure safety measures are in place and are implemented in cases of critical incidents. This process is ongoing and the Sheriff's Office continues to work diligently, employing adopted best practices to deter acts of violence in our schools and to respond to acts of violence within educational institutions in an effective manner.





The Lake County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol along with U.S. Coast Guard and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources provide safe boating, and enforce maritime laws on Lake Erie. The Marine Patrol deploys several days a week and on holidays during the boating season. Safe boating, boating and personal watercraft education, accident investigation, and the enforcement of maritime laws are just some of the responsibilities of the Marine Patrol. This program is funded through a State of Ohio grant.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office in 2007 was placed in charge of a new project, The Northern Border Initiative. This project is funded by The Department of Homeland Security. This initiative will provide security along the Lake Erie Shoreline. This initiative in conjunction with US Customs / ICE is designed to interdict and interview subjects boating into the United States. This initiative provides for additional security on the Great Lakes. The Lake County Sheriff's Office was able to secure a new watercraft for inland waterways, including the Grand River. This was funded by the Homeland Security Office and will enhance the Lake County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol and Dive Team response capabilities. The Lake County Sheriff's Office Dive Team is available for response for search and rescue, search and recovery and evidence search operations. The dive team is available upon request by any agency within and outside of Lake County.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division strives to maintain excellence in public service. We take pride in the trust our residents have in our agency and will continue to provide quality law enforcement services to the residents of Lake County.

Operations Captain Carl Dondorfer #53

Patrol Commander / Operations Captain

[TOWNSHIP GROWTH
PROJECTIONS](#)

[ROAD PATROL TRAINING](#)